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DATE: AUG 2000

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HQ & HQ DETACHMENT

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

AFPO 413 U.S. Army

EO 12958, 25X (X)

☒ With concurrence of CIA (not obtained)

IPS/CR/IR by 90 Date 4/30/99

7th December 1944.

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GLO

SUBJECT: MO Radio Project "MATCHBOX"

TO: Director, Psychological Warfare Division, SHAEP.

FROM: Chief, MO Branch, OSS-ETO.

1. OBJECT: To undermine further German continuation of the war by evidence of the existence of a powerful Wehrmacht Group inside Germany which proposes to approach Britain and America on a "Peace now" basis.
2. METHOD: From within Germany, the Wehrmacht forces and the German people and Allies are addressed in German and English by spokesmen representing a Wehrmacht Group which feels that:

- a. Germany has actually lost the war
- b. Further fighting will only mean losses and destruction for both Germany and the Allies which can be avoided by peace now.
- c. Continuation of the war would destroy the remaining industrial, human and moral resources of the German nation, which the Western powers actually need for the reconstruction of Europe.
- d. The Wehrmacht must openly admit that it made a mistake in supporting Hitler and the National Socialist Party.
- e. The Wehrmacht represent the only guarantor of order in Germany as opposed to the radical National Socialist elements which now propose to go underground.

The cover is that of a military radio transmitter located somewhere on the Western front.

3. SUBJECT MATTER:

A. German program. On these, the spokesman points out that the military situation is now strategically hopeless, that the only thing left is the waging by the Germans of a defensive, attritional war, but that the only hope of preserving anything of Germany lies in making peace now, even on the basis of unconditional surrender. The only element in Germany which could possibly make the peace now, which would give Germany any guarantee of survival, is the Wehrmacht group presently speaking; the Nazi radicals now grouped around Himmler are committed to continuation of the war to the point of final destruction, and are themselves in no position to make the peace because they have committed national and international acts placing them beyond the pale of Allied consideration. On this Nazi selfishness and madness, the German nation ~~has~~ is being sacrificed.

The tone of the German broadcast is one of realistic appraisal of the military and political situation. There is a marked effort to justify the approach to the Allies by this Wehrmacht Group. More by innuendo than by actual statement, the point is made to the German people that the Wehrmacht, as in 1917, is in a position to pull Germany out of the mess into which the Nazis have plunged her. There is no vilification of Hitler. Although there is some of his satellites. In general, this group, as noted, simply admits that they backed the wrong horse, and seeks now to point this out to the German people.

B. English program. The Group's spokesman addresses the United States and Great Britain in English along lines tending to prove that it would be to the advantage, not only of Germany ~~but~~ but of the Allies, to make peace now, and points out that this Wehrmacht Group is the only one which can give a guarantee of anything ~~but~~ anarchy and chaos in Germany following surrender. In a tone which certainly does not lack confidence, the spokesman points out that though the strategical situation is bad for Germany, the German forces (of which the present

group itself control a very considerable number) are in a position to make any march to Berlin a very costly affair for the Allies. Certain phases of Allied policy and military conduct of the war are very frankly criticised. The spokesman stresses the danger to the Allies of having the Nazis go underground. Finally the program emphasises that the Wehrmacht Group is in a position to bring about the unconditional surrender of Germany, if the position of the Wehrmacht itself, as in 1917, is clearly defined and recognised in the post-surrender period.

4. TARGET:

A. Ostensible Targets:

1. Allied:

- (a) Allied Military leaders:
- (b) Allied political leaders:
- (c) Allied public opinion through the newspapers etc.

2. German:

- (a) The supporters of the Wehrmacht as the protectors of Germany's future in both Wehrmacht and civilian population;
- (b) All elements in Germany which like the Wehrmacht itself, made the mistake of supporting Hitler and the National Socialist Party.

B. Actual targets: All elements in Germany which are weary enough of the war to accept unconditional surrender NOW in order to achieve the end of the war. These elements are actually aimed at obliquely in the English language broadcasts (since there are very considerable numbers of radio listeners in Germany who understand English) as well as in the German language broadcasts.

5. TRANSMISSION: Short-wave $7\frac{1}{2}$ KW, beamed at Germany.

6. DURATION: The proposed total of some nine broadcasts, either three times a week or more frequently as conditions indicate. The English and German broadcasts would run about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 minutes each.